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# Witcheress



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This article is an expansion based on a canon element. For canon information on this topic, follow the link to The Witcher Wiki: [Witcher](#).



A **witcheress**, also known as a **witcherlass**, *Wicca*, *Hexerina*, or simply *Witch* (Elder Speech: *Kai'lech*), is a woman who undergoes the training and changes necessary to become a witcher. She goes through similar and different changes compared to her male counterparts. However, due to their low survival rate - with only 1 out of every 10 girls surviving the mutations - they quickly become a rarity, surpassed by their male counterparts who have a higher survival rate of 4 out of 10 boys.



A witcheress from the School of the Viper, art by [SilverSkittle](#)

Despite being a forgotten myth in the collective imagination of [The World](#), witcheresses have existed and many have left their important mark on history.

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## Origins

The idea of creating witcheresses was intended from the beginning by Alzur, inspired by different myths and people like the Valkyries and the Zerrikanian Female Warriors. However, it was not until many years later, with the foundations of the Witcher Schools, that witcheresses would begin to appear. The [School of the Cat](#) was the first school to successfully create witcheresses during its time in Ebbing, although the initial results were disastrous, with most of the women ending up dead or turned into abominations. By making variations and changes to the formulas, they eventually managed to create the first witcheress, something that even Alzur did not achieve.

By 1010, Deglan from the School of the Wolf infiltrated the School of the Cat and managed to recover the experimental formulas for creating witcheresses. He spread copies of the formulas to other schools to prevent the birth of only "*murderous psychopathic girls*" as ordered by Grandmaster Barmin. Thus, the possibility of witcheress in other schools was born. Although due to the aforementioned low survival rate and the eventual fall of the schools, until their resurgence after the Second Conjunction of the Spheres, these copies would be lost over time. Some because of the pogroms, others simply because of carelessness or different reasons (as in the case of the [School of the Fox](#) and the [School of the Bear](#)).

That doesn't mean, however, that all schools, at some point in their history, did have witcheress, the vast majority did, but not all. For example, the [School of the Rhino](#), due to the type of mutations they used, tried to adapt the experimental formula to their changes, but this new version proved fatal in women, so they gave up the possibility of training them.

## Biological differences with their male counterparts

- **Loss of the menstruation cycle** : One of the main biological differences between witcheresses and their male counterparts is the loss of the menstruation cycle. While male witchers do not experience any changes to their reproductive system during the mutations, except sterility. Female witchers experience a very painful process during The Trial of the Dreams which causes the complete loss of all their ova during what could be classified as a horrendous menstruation. This causes many to bleed out and die in the process. This reduces the survival rate tremendously. So very few make it through the process and are able to recover after literally being on the brink of death.
- **Smaller stature** : Another biological difference between witcheresses and their male counterparts is the fact that female witchers tend to be physically smaller in stature. This is due to the fact that the mutations are more taxing on the female body, which means that not all women are able to undergo the process successfully. As a result, those who do survive tend to be of smaller stature and have less muscle mass than male witchers. The only notable exceptions, being the witcheresses that existed at some point in the [School of the Bear](#).
- **Higher pain tolerance** : Witcheresses are also known to have a higher pain tolerance than male witchers. This is partly due to the fact that they experience intense physical pain during The Trial of the Dreams and are forced to endure it in order to survive. Additionally, it is believed that the increased levels of estrogens in their bodies may play a role in their ability to withstand pain.
- **More intense emotions** : It is worth noting that while male witchers are usually known for their stoicism and emotional detachment, witcheresses tend to be more emotional and empathetic. This may be due to the fact, beside the origin of the formula for created them being from the School of the Cat, that the increase in estrogens can have an effect on emotional processing and mood regulation. As a

result, female witchers may be more sensitive to the emotions of others, which could be an asset in certain situations but also a liability in others.

- **Greater agility and finesse:** Female witchers are typically more agile and have better finesse than their male counterparts, due to their smaller size and increased flexibility. This allows them to move quickly and easily in combat, and perform acrobatic maneuvers that may be difficult for male witchers. This also means they may be better suited for certain types of weapons or combat styles, such as the use of daggers or other close-quarters weapons, where speed and precision are key.
- **Enhanced Color Spectrum Vision:** Unlike their male counterparts, witcheresses are able to see in a much broader spectrum of colors.
- **Enhanced hearing:** Unlike their male counterparts, witcheresses possess a greater enhanced hearing, allowing them to detect noises at greater distances. As a result of this advantage, a witcheress will always be a better tracker than a witcher. This, for example, was something very useful for the Cat School and their female assassins.

## Biological similarities with their male counterparts

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- **Sterility:** Both witchers and witcheresses are sterile as a result of the alchemical and mutagenic processes they undergo during their training.
- **Cat-like eyes:** Both witchers and witcheresses have cat-like eyes that grant them acute night vision and enhanced sensory perception.
- **Resistance to disease:** Both witchers and witcheresses have a tremendous resistance to disease, which functions in most cases as complete immunity, and a boosted immune system that allows them to consume large quantities of potions.
- **Magical potential:** Both witchers and witcheresses have more magical potential than the average human, which gives them the ability to perform simple yet incredibly versatile combat magic in the form of [Signs](#).
- **Lifespan:** Both witchers and witcheresses have an extended lifespan and prolonged youth. It is believed that witcheresses can live longer than the average witcher, as women tend to live longer than men on average, but no one has been able to prove this due to the rarity of witcheresses and the lifestyle of both.
- **Overdeveloped libido :** In the case of witchers, it is because they have more testosterone in their bodies due to mutations that causes them to possess twice the strength of an ordinary man. In the case of the witcheress, that do not have this characteristic, it is because to an increase in estrogens as a side effect of slowing down aging process.
- **Accelerated healing :** Granting quick recovery from injuries but due to hormonal differences, male and female witchers heal at different rates. With female witchers experience slower healing rates than their male counterparts.

On the other hand, due to their physiology and biology, witcheresses have lower speed, endurance, and physical strength compared to the average witcher. Their speed is approximately eight times higher and their strength is 0.5 times higher. The speed and strength of the average male witcher, on the other hand, is ten times and twice respectively that of the average man

This reason for the increase in estrogens, apart from their survival rate, led many schools not to train witcheresses because estrogens can influence feelings of power and competition in women, potentially leading to conflicts and even fatalities during the remainder of their training after undergoing mutations. An example of this is the School of the Bear, which, after several negative experiences, banned the training and creation of witcheresses altogether. In contrast, the School of the Cat encouraged competition, allowing only the strongest and most capable to emerge.

In the case of other schools, they were not as extreme, but they still limited the training of witcheresses, typically only training one or two women for every group of twenty boys selected.

## Trivia and notes

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- Kai'leach is based in the Irish word for witch : *Cailleach*.

- This article aims to expand and settle the lore around this concept. Besides defining the biological advantages and disadvantages of a witcheress with respect to her male counterpart. Because although there are confirmed witcherlasses in the canon, there is no explanation of how the process works or if it has changes.

## Categories



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